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REHABILITATION, HOUSING & BACKWARD CLASSES. DEPARTMENT

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Subject:— Miscellaneous Matter

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Extract from the Agenda of the conference of Governor's and Rajpramukhs to be held in New Delhi on the 16th and 17th March 1951.

Relief and Rehabilitation of refugees. (The Governor of West Bengal thinks the resettlement of refugees from East Pakistan in Orissa, Bihar, etc. would be more succe ssful if they were settled in border districts thus ob- viating the linguistic difficulties which at present result in manay refugees returning to West Bengal.)

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MOST IMMEDIATE.

No. 8613/46/1[illegible]722-B.
Political and Services Department,
Bombay Castle, 5th March 1951.

Forwarded with compliments to the Secretary to Govern- ment Rehabilitation Department with a request to forward by today evening a short note on the item on the agenda with whic his department is concerned.

By order of the Governor of Bombay

Id/-

For Chief Secretary to the Government
of Bombay
Political and Services Department.

CSM.18.5.56.

No.C/8259-B.
Rehabilitation Department.
Fourth Floor, Mercantile Bank Building.
Mahatma Gandhi Road, Fort, Bombay(I).
dt. 5th March 1951.

MEMORANDUM.

The undersigned presents compliments to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay, and with reference to th the Political and Services Department endorsement No.8613/46/11722-B, dated the 5th March 1951 is directed to send herewith a short note on the Relief and Rehabilitation of displaced persons as desired.

By order ofthe Governor of Bombay,

Id/- D.R. Prince.
2-5-51.

For Secretary to the Government of Bombay,
Rehabilitation Department.

CSN. 18.5.

RELIEF AND REHABILITATION OF DISPLACED PERSONS.

Nearly five lakhs of displaced persons migrated to the State of Bombay after partition and the State Government has made all possible efforts to resettle this large number in all possible directions. In the initial stages, nearly 2 lakhs of displaced persons were housed in the various relief camps and were given relief in the shape of temporary shelter, free rations, clothing, medical aid, etc. But this type of gratuitous relief was completely stopped from March 1950 except in the case of unattached women and children, the aged and the infirm for whom it will have to be continued for some time to come.

2. The attention of Government is mainly concentrated on permanent measures required for rehabilitating the largest possible number of the displaced persons who have come to this State. The steps so far taken and those contemplated in the immediate future, are briefly indicated below:-

i) Construction of permanent or semi-permanent houses for displaced persons;

ii) Provision of vocational and technical training facilities, and

iii) Creation of work centes for providing employment of skilled workers;

iv) Schemes for Agricultural colonisation;

v) Grant of final assistance for setting up in business and for starting small industries etc.;

vi)) Provision of facilities necessary for doing business in the Urban areas;

vii) Reservation of seats in Government service;

viii) Assistance to displaced students for prosecuting their studies.

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The details of the displaced persons townships, and colonies to be constructed, or in process of construction, are given below:-

i) A large township near Kalyan, designed for an eventual population of about 2,00,000.

ii) A smaller townships, for 25,000 to 30,000 people, near Ahmedabad.

iii) Smaller Colonies, each for about 8,000 persons, at Chembur and Mulund (near Bombay), Pimpri (near Poona), Valivde (near Kolhapur) and at Baroda and Nasik.

The construction of tenements in some selected small towns, where facilities for gainful employment are available, has also been undertaken.

3. The original construction programme envisaged a total expenditure of about Rs.21 crores, but it has now been reduced to Rs.15 crores, in view of the need for economy. The expenditure on this account during the current year (1950-51) is expected to come to Rs.235 lakhs, and the next year's expenditure is estimated at Rs.517 lakhs. All this expenditure is to be met from loans obtained from the Government of India.

4. Considerable progress has already been made in construction. So far, about 11,000 tenements and 1,000 shops have been contructed in the various townships, colonies and the selected mofussil towns, at a cost of about Rs.3 crores. Large provision is contemplated in the next year's budget, to enable Government to pursue the various schemes more vigorously, so as to complete a major portion of the programme by the end of 1951-52. It is proposedto construct nearly 10,000 houses during 1951-52.

5. The progress made in respect of the other important measures adopted for the rehabilitation of the displaced persons

is.....

be briefly indicated below:-

(a) URBAN LOANS: The scheme for the grant of loans to displaced persons for engaging in business or trades or starting crafts or industry etc. was intitiated at the instance of the Government of India 1948, and loans aggregating nearly Rs.1,14,00,000 have so far been granted to about 18,000 displaced persons. The maximum loan admissible to individuals and co-operative societies under this scheme is Rs.5,000 and Rs.25,000 respectively. The interest is charged at 3 per cent. No recoveries are to be made in the first three years; but full re payment is to be effected within a maximum period of six years. The scheme has proved very popular and helpful. A provision of Rs.25,00,000 has been made in the next year's budget.

(B) AGRICULTURAL COLONIZATION SCHEMES: Agricultural colonization schemes have been sanctioned ror the re-settlement of about 1,700 displaced agriculturists families at Radhanpur in Mehsana District, Deesa in the Banaskantha District, Waghodia in the Baroda District and at Sawantwadi in the Ratnagiri District. The main features of the Agricultural Colonization schemes are :-

i) Each family is given about 10 to 14½ acres of a land on new and impartible tenure.

ii) No assessment is to be charged for the first three to five years.

iii) Each family is given a tagai loan upto Rs.1,162 for the purchase of bullocks, seed, manure, agricultural implements repairs to houses, construction of huts, etc.

iv) These displaced persons are to be organised into co-operative societies.

About 1,300 families have so far been settled in these colonies

The current year's expenditure on agricultural colonisation schemes is estimated at Rs.8 lakhs and provision of Rs.5 laks has been made in the next year's budget.

(c) THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING SCHEMES: Two large vocational training centres have been established in the displaced persons townships at Kalyan and Ahmedabad, and a smaller one has been opened at Baroda. The sanctioned strength oftrainees for those three centres is 1,100; and nearly 1,500 persons have been trained so far. About 300 skilled workmen are employed in those cehtres.

(d) PRODUCTION CENTRES: A scheme for starting Production Centres for providing practical experience in various basic industries (e.g. handloom weaving and textile printing, tailoring, etc.) and also gainful employment was sanctioned in July 1949; and such centres have been opened in the Kalyan Township and in the settlements at Pimpri and Valivade. These centres are designed to provide employment for about 600 skilled workers.

(e) ASSISTANCE TO DISPLACED STUDENTS: Displaced students in primary and secondary schools and colleged are given assistance in the form of freeships, stipends, loans for prosecuting their studies. An expenditure of about Rs.7 lakhs has been incurred so far, and the next yearIs budget contains a provision of Rs.4,25,000.

(f) PROVISION OF FACILITIES FOR BUSINESS IN LARGE AND SMALL TOWNS: Shops, stalls and hawking facilities have been made available at various places, and efforts are being made to increase these facilities as far as possible within possibl limits. Over 3,000 shops, stalls and cabins have been given t

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displaced persons in the State so far.

(g) EMPLOYMENT OF DISPLACED PERSONS IN SERVICE: Displaced persons have been treated liberally in regard to recruitment to new vacancies in Government offices. Many public and semi-Government bodies have made reservations in favour of these persons. The Employment Exchanges of the Government of India have also been useful medium for providing employment to them. Over 15,000 displaced persons have been provided with employment in private and Government services.

(h) PROMOTION OF CO-OPERATIVE ENTERPRISE: A special organisation has been set up since November 1948 for promoting co-operative enterprise amongst displaced persons staying in Relief Camps. So far, about 125 co-operative societies have been organised.

6. REHABILITATION OF UNATTACHED DESTITUTES: The rehabilitation of old and infirm unattached women and children is the other great problem to be tackled. The Government of India have taken the view that this problem can be solved only on a long-term basis. A Central Advisory Board has been appointed by the Government of India and this body is to advise that Government on all policy matters regarding rehabilitation of all categories of displaced person s. In connection with the rehabilitation of distitute unattached women and children, a separate home (The Nari Seva Sadan) has been opened at the Kurla Camp. Nine hundred and fifty seven women and 720 children are being looked after in this home. Separate homes are proposed to be opened at Ulhasnagar for about 8,000 old and infirm unattached women and children living in the State. Training Centres have been opened for unattached women at

Kurla.....

Kurla (the Nari Seva Sadan), Baroda and Ahmedabad (Wadaj), where training is given to them in tailoring and various other cottage industries.

7. The Administration ofthe Evacuee Property Act, 1950, has enabled Government to rehabilitate about 600 to 700 familie by alloting to them the right, title and interest of persons declared evacuees.

8. EXTENT OF REHABILITATION: It is difficult to assess the extent of rehabilitation in the absence of reliable statistics However, taking into consideration the small number of people who are on cash-doles in camps, the number of persons who have received loans or secured employment and the large number who live outside on their own, it can be assumed that nearly 50 per cent of the displaced persons in this State have secured econimic security in some form or other.

9. The suggestion made by His Excellency the Governor of West Bengal that displaced persons from East Pakistan should be settled in border districts so as to obviate linguistic difficulties appears to be a sound one. From the experience gained in this State, it can be stated that such a course would have the way of early rehabilitation. The displaced persons who have come to this State from Sind have settled down very quickly as the Sind was a part of this State formerly and had very close ties towards in business and trade. If the displaced persons are dispersed to far off places, in addition to finding new avenues of employmen t, they will many which have to face the problem of social assimilation in the new environment. If however they are settled in the linguistically contiguous areas, they will have to face the psychlogical problem of readjustment on a much smaller scale.